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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,894	10/28/2003	Teruo Ashikawa	Q78042	4038
23373	7590	05/25/2006	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			CHEN, TIANJIE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2627	

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/693,894

Applicant(s)

ASHIKAWA, TERUO

Examiner

Tianjie Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Non-Final rejection (RCE)

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/12/2006 has been entered. Claims 1 and 2 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lun (JP 7-18068) in view of Endo et al (EP 0 420 564 A2) and Kawatsu (US 6,025,286).

Claims 1 and 2, Lun shows a tape cassette including: upper half case 30 and lower half cases 31 of which a cassette case is composed; a reel 35 with a magnetic tape 34 wound thereon being rotatably stored in the cassette case; a pressure mechanism 55 for pressing elastically the central upper portion of the reel, the pressure mechanism being mounted on the upper half case 30; a center pin 39 being disposed on the reel central upper portion; and flat plate portion 72 contacted by the

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center pin, the flat plate portion 72 being disposed on the pressure mechanism; wherein the center pin is molded mainly of polyacetal-system synthetic resin (Column 6, lines 29-30), the flat plate portion is molded mainly of polybutylene-system or polyethylene-system synthetic resin (Column 6, lines 31-37).

Lun fails to show that inorganic powder is added to at least one of these two kinds of synthetic resin.

Endo shows that, for anti-friction purpose, inorganic powder with 0.5-30 percent is added in to Polybutylene or polyethylene synthetic resin (p. 3, lines 9-11 and p.4, lines 28-34).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to add 0.5-30 percent of inorganic powder in polyacetal resin for anti-friction purpose.

Endo shows that the inorganic powder may be one from the group of calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, talc, silica kaolin etc.; although does not explicitly include titanium oxide, it has been pointed out that it is not limited to these mentioned (P.4, lines 28-31) materials in the list.

Kawatsu et al shows a list as the powder for improving friction property, the list includes clay mica, titanium oxide, calcium carbonate, kaolin, talc or wet or dry silica.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to include titanium oxide as an alternative for improving friction property.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 11/14/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

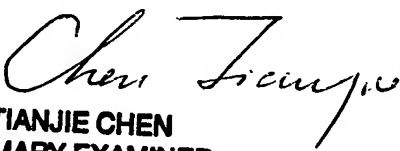
- Applicant argues that in Kawatsu a number of materials are identified to aid in the sliding friction aspects of a polyester film. However, there is no teaching in either Kawatsu or Endo regarding the wear of components or the generation of resin powder when a component is rotated at high speeds.
- Examiner's position: examiner has seen no reason that a material has low friction in sliding will not have low friction in rotating. Applicant does not provide any evidence to support his argument.
- Applicant argues that Endo (EP '564) does not utilize inorganic fillers with either a polybutylene-system or polyethylene-system synthetic resin as presently claimed.
- Examiner's position: Endo (EP '564) does utilize inorganic fillers with either a polybutylene-system or polyethylene-system synthetic resin as presently claimed as stated in p. 3, lines 9-11).
- Rejection maintains.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tianjie Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-7570. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER